

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 01150 180807Z

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 EB-08 /018 W

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R 180551Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9833

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1150

FROM AMBASSADOR FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOK

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BGEN, BEXP, AMGT, AS

SUBJ: SYDNEY TRADE CENTER

REFS: (A) 76 CANBERRA 3111, (B) 76 CANBERRA 1117

1. I WAS SURPRISED AND CONCERNED TO LEARN OF THE OMISSION OF FUNDS FOR THE SYDNEY TRADE CENTER FROM THE COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FY 1978 BUDGET, AND URGE THAT THE APPARENT DECISION TO CLOSE THE TRADE CENTER AT THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR BE REVERSED.

2. THE REASONS FOR RETAINING THIS TRADE CENTER ARE SET FORTH IN DETAIL IN REF A, MY PERSONAL MESSAGE OF APRIL 1976 TO THEN UNDER SECRETARY BAKER, AND IN REF B OF FEBRUARY 1976. I URGE YOU TO REVIEW THE POINTS SET FORTH IN THESE MESSAGES, WHICH REMAIN VALID. IN ESSENCE, AUSTRALIA IS A HIGH-CONSUMPTION RESOURCE-RICH COUNTRY WHICH OFFERS AN ABOVE AVERAGE CURRENT AND LONG TERM MARKET OPPORTUNITY FOR U.S. EXPORTS. AT THE SAME TIME, THESE EXPORTS FACE STRONG THIRD COUNTRY COMPETITION AND U.S. BUSINESS DESERVES STRONG USG SUPPORT IN RETAINING AND ENLARGING ITS AUSTRALIAN MARKET. THE TRADE CENTER HAS DEMONSTRATED ITS EFFECTIVENESS AS A TRADE PROMOTION FACILITY IN AUSTRALIA, AND ITS CONTINUATION IS OF CENTRAL IMPORTANCE TO OUR AMBITIOUS ONGOING TRADE PROMOTION

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EFFORST.

3. ON FEBRUARY 15, UPON LEARNING OF THE PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE TRADE CENTER I WROTE TO SECRETARY OF COMMERCE KREPS EXPRESSING MY SURPRISE AND CONCERN AT THIS DEVELOPMENT. I DESCRIBED OUR EXPERIENCE ONE YEAR AGO, WHEN THE AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNIT IN AUSTRALIA, WHICH SHARES THE EMBASSY'S CONCERN ON

THIS MATTER SUCCESSFULLY CONVINCED THE HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE THAT THE PARALLEL PROPOSAL TO CLOSE THE CENTER AT THE END OF 1976 SHOULD BE REJECTED. I KNOW THAT THOSE BUSINESSMEN ARE NOW DISTURBED TO LEARN THAT THEIR SUCCESSFUL 1976 EFFORT ON BEHALF OF THE TRADE CENTER HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A RENEWED PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH THE CENTER IN 1977.

4. I HOPE THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVERT THIS LATEST THREAT TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE TRADE CENTER.
HARGROVE

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Disposition Event:
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